

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED

INFORMATION FROM

**FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS**

## REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY	Iran; USSR
SUBJECT	Sociology - Minorities Political - Communist activities
HOW PUBLISHED	Weekly periodical

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

DATE DIST. 3 JAN 1953

WHERE  
PUBLISHED      Tehran

DATE  
PUBLISHED 18 Jul 1952

LANGUAGE Persian

**UNCLASSIFIED**

NOV 24 1954

NOV 24 1991  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

NO. OF PAGES 2

applies to OCI- 164

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE                    Tehran Mossavar.

FLIGHT OF ARMENIANS IN TEHRAN;  
ARMENIAN UNDERGROUND ROUTE TO THE USSR

Following the termination of World War II, the USSR launched a vast propaganda scheme to attract Armenians residing outside the USSR to return to their homeland. Consequently, a large number of Armenians did return to the USSR, including 20,000 Iranian Armenians from Arak, Julfa, Faridan, and Eligudarz. However, as reports of unfavorable treatment by the Soviets reached other Armenians in Iran, they hesitated to go to the USSR. These reports left thousands of Iranian Armenians who had already liquidated their means of livelihood stranded, helpless, and in desperate condition in Tehran.

One person, Mirza Naqi Khan Soradi, owner of a large tract of land in the vicinity of Pahlevi Avenue and the old Shemiran Road, gave these Armenians, who now numbered 9,000, free of charge 100,000 square meters of land situated in Behjatabad. Today, after 4 years, a small Armenian town which closely resembles a Stone-Age settlement, has risen in the northern part of Tehran and is far worse than the slums which are located in the southern part of Tehran.

This Armenian settlement is situated 6 meters lower than the surrounding terrain. The streets are narrow, winding, and confusing. Small lodgings have less than 50 square meters of floor space and consist of two or three rooms, with each room being occupied by five to eight persons. Food and other necessities are sold in little shops and hovels. The main problem of this settlement is water. The low elevation makes it impossible to conduct water from the city canals, because it would flood the area. Thus, the Armenians are obliged to carry their water from a distance of 2 - 3 kilometers. Until a couple of years ago, their water was supplied from the subterranean canal which originated near the USSR Embassy. However, today, this canal has been closed by the USSR Embassy.

These Armenians are exposed 24 hours a day to Communist propaganda by Soviet agents and Tudeh Party members who incite them to revolts and riots.

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION ~~RESTRICTED~~

<del>X</del>	NAVY	<del>X</del>	NSR3		DISTRIBUTION					
<del>X</del>	AIR	<del>X</del>	FB I							

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

STAT

Until recently, Cominform agents had succeeded in inducing the clandestine emigration to the USSR of some of the thoughtless Armenians living in various parts of Iran. These Armenians were guided by a group of men in Tehran in crossing the frontier, aided by USSR officials.

The leaders of this group in Tehran were Mirza Mohsen, Haj Sheykh Mohammad, and Mohammad Hasan Khajeh, a native of Khajeha and a well-known smuggler. The headquarters, located in the western part of Tehran, was equipped with 17 trucks, and had a large quantity of weapons and blank identification cards. This group, in addition to sending Armenians to the USSR, engaged in sending groups of leftists and Tudeh Party members to the USSR to study espionage and Communist propaganda techniques.

Some time ago, the Iranian frontier and military authorities became aware of this group. When the gendarmerie officers in Kuchan received a report on 2 July that Mohammad Hasan Khajeh was heading toward the border with a cartload of goods, they arrested him near Jafarabad, approximately 24 kilometers from Kuchan. A search of his person yielded a number of papers, a sum of cash, various documents, and several letters of introduction.

On the basis of these documents, four additional persons were arrested on the following day. During the ensuing investigation, these persons confessed that they had attempted to emigrate to the USSR with 26 other persons, had left Tehran in accordance with instructions received from a USSR Embassy member, and were guided by Haj Sheykh Mohammad and Mohammad Hasan Khajeh. They also stated that they were informed that nothing prohibited their leaving Iran for the USSR and that 100 Armenians were allowed to leave for Soviet Armenia every week. On the following day, 4 July, another group of eight men, nine women, and nine children heading for the border were apprehended as they arrived in Kuchan from Tehran.

Further investigation revealed that a number of suspects in various parts of Iran, especially in Tehran, were taking part in moving Iranian Armenians to the USSR.

- E N D -

- 2 -